

MINUTES

-OF THE-

THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

-OF THE-

Texas Free Will Baptist
Association

-CONVENED WITH-

New Hope Church, Rusk County
October 2, 3, 4, and 5, 1913

The next session will be held with the Center Point
Church, four miles east of Tatum, Texas,
Thursday night before the first
Sunday in October, 1914.

D. J. DOLLAR Moderator
T. D. ROSS Clerk
R. G. DUKE Treasurer

Member Texas Mission Board
E. S. Jamison

PROCEEDINGS

FIRST DAY SESSION (FRIDAY).

The Thirty Sixth Annual Session of the Texas Free Will Baptist Association convened with New Hope church near Henderson, Rusk county, October 3rd. 4th. and 5th. 1913, Introductory Sermon having been preached Thursday night by Rev. E. S. Jameson, Text Gen. 4:9, and was opened with song "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" and prayer by Rev. D. J. Dollar. Rev. D. R. Jimerson being the oldest minister present assumed the Chair as Moderator on account of the death of the former Moderator and in the absence of Clerk, J. P. Conley was elected Clerk protem. V. M. Hampton, H. W. Watson and T. E. Williams were appointed as committee on pulpit supply. Rev. C. B. Thompson was appointed to preach at 11 o'clock, Text 1 Jno. 5:12. Adjournment was then had until 1 o'clock p. m.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

After song, prayer was led by Rev. D. J. Dollar. Letters from different churches called for and read and delegates seated. The following is the list of churches with their delegates as seated after reading letters: Christian Chapel—B. Waggoner, W. Estes; Union Chapel—T. E. Williams, W. L. Walker; Clayton not represented; Dunns Chapel—W. L. Dunn, E. J. Smith; Campbell Hill—H. W. Watson, Lloyd Bennett; Turners Chapel—E. G. Jameson; Good Hope—E. S. Skelton, B. F. Gourds; Harpers Grove—G. T. Birdwell; Center Point—J. D. Arrant; Stewart Chapel—W. A. Silvey and

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wife; Union Springs—Lloyd Adams, J. P. Jennings.

After reading of letters and seating delegates permanent organization was entered into and Bro. D. J. Dollar was elected moderator for ensuing year.

Rev. C. C. Wheeler, pastor of the Free Baptist church, Bryan, Texas, as representative of Field Secretary Tatum, was extended all privileges that are allowed the Field Secretary.

Bro. A. J. Klutts, an old and respected member of our church, who was not a representative of any church, was voted all the privileges of the body.

The following Committees were appointed: Business—E. S. Jameson, C. C. Wheeler, J. D. Arrant; Standing of Ministry—H. W. Watson, G. T. Birdwell, T. E. Williams; Temperance—J. R. Conley, C. B. Thompson E. G. Skelton; Finance—D. R. Jimerson, W. L. Walker, B. Waggoner; Sunday Schools—H. W. Watson, W. A. Silvey and Mrs. W. A. Silvey; Obituaries—W. L. Dunn, J. D. Arrant, J. W. Estes; Education and Publication—E. S. Jameson, C. C. Wheeler, C. B. Thompson.

A committee was appointed to prepare and have published in minutes and send copy of resolutions to the families of our departed brethren, A. M. Stewart and R. S. Pace. E. S. Jameson Chairman of Committee. Rev. C. B. Thompson was elected to fill vacancy of Ordaining Council, caused by death of our dear Bro. Stewart.

After some discussion of the relation between pastor and layman, it was recommended by this body that each church when they call a pastor set a salary and pay it.

Adjourned until 9 o'clock Saturday morning.
Preaching Friday night Rev. D. R. Jimerson.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

House called to order by moderator and after singing a song, prayer was led by T. W. Smith. Friday's minutes were read and approved. Report of pulpit committee read and received as follows: C. C. Wheeler preach 11 o'clock today; E. S. Jameson preach tonight.

Clerk and Treasurer of association both being absent, no financial report could be obtained.

All committees reported (see reports.)

Rev. E. S. Jameson was elected as member of Texas Home Mission Board.

On motion it was recommended that we organize two quarterly meetings: one to be composed of Rusk and Smith counties and one composed of Harrison and Panola counties, also a Ministers and Deacons Institute. Ordaining Council recommended ordination of Bro. J. R. Conley. At the recommendation of the council it was agreed to adopt the Denominational System of Ordination.

Eight delegates were elected to the Southwestern convention.

Rev. D. J. Dollar was appointed to thank the church and people for their kindness and hospitality to us.

It was voted that next session of the association be held with Center Point church, four miles East of Tatum, beginning Thursday night before 1st. Sunday in October; Rev. J. R. Conley to preach the Introductory Sermon.

REPORTS

EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS

we your committee on Publications and Education submit: Realizing that the church and school are national associates and allies, seeking to impart lessons and truth in fitting young people for life, and appreciating the noble teachers in the public schools, Academies and Colleges of our country and recognizing the sacrifice our parents are making, we recommend the fullest education to all our young people.

We rejoice that in most instances the teachers in the public schools, by example and precept, give the influence of Christian education to their pupils. We further recognize the need of an educated and cultured ministry; we therefore urge all our ministry to seek the best advantages possible and study to make themselves approved of God in this work. We recommend the Free Baptist correspondence course for our ministers who can't leave home. (You may get the particulars of this by addressing Dr. J. A. Howe, Belmont, Mass.)

we recommend; That, inasmuch as our own Free Baptist News has been as great, if not the greatest, factor in getting our forces more fully organized in the South West, we earnestly urge that every member of our church subscribe for and read our paper. We further recommend that the Clerk of this association be given authority to get minutes printed where he can get the neatest job for the least money.

E. S. JAMESON,

C. C. WHEELER,

C. B. THOMPSON,

Committee.

MISSIONS

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We, your committee on missions, submit the following: 1st, establishment of the Texas Home Mission Board as suggested by C. C. Wheeler. 2nd, We recommend that pledges for this purpose be taken and that all pastors unite their efforts to increase the number of these pledges in their respective churches when they return to their homes. 3rd, We further recommend that this body elect some one from her members who may affiliate with the one who may be elected from each of the other associations, to compose a board, who will formulate the plans of this work. 4th, That we give him the power to disburse this fund.

E. S. JAMESON,
C. C. WHEELER,
Committee.

STANDING OF MINISTRY

Your committee on Standing of Ministry find that our ministers are all in good standing with their churches.

H. W. WATSON, Chairman.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Your committee on Sunday School submits the following: Inasmuch as we have so many people of other denominations among our church members who attend our services, we feel like the use of Union Literature is best suited to our rural churches.

We recommend that our pastors do all they can to interest our people in Sunday School work, knowing that our young people need Christian training, and the Sunday School is the proper place for it.

H. W. WATSON,
W. A. SILVEY,
MRS. W. A. SILVEY,
Committee.

OBITUARIES

Your committee on obituaries submit: We find only four deaths among the members of this association: Rev. A. M. Stewart, Rev. R. S. Pace, Sisters Mollie Klutts and Eliza Ware. To the sorrowing ones we extend sympathy and condolence, commending them to the Allwise, who is able to heal their sorrows.

J. D. ARRANT, Chairman.

RESOLUTIONS of SYMPATHY

To the memory of the organizer and promoter of the Freewill Baptist church in Texas:

Inasmuch as our Heavenly Father in his wisdom has seen fit to remove from our midst our Leader and Co-worker, Rev. A. M. Stewart,

And whereas, he was organizer of our church in Texas, and always a promoter of anything for its interest and welfare, not only among the people of his own church, but always lending a hand to all Christianity,

And whereas, another one of God's Noblemen has gone, his presence will be missed in the church, where we always looked to him for safe counsel, and not only will his counsel be missed in our ranks, but the members of the Ministers' Association in the town where he lived, one after another, stood at the funeral and expressed the keen sense of their loss, it is needless to say that his family is heart broken. Yet he is better off, far, than we, and soon those, who follow his Christ, may enter the same joys.

Therefore, be it resolved; first, that our association extend to the family our sympathy and our prayers.

Second, that we commend our church to his God and advise that our people follow Him in the same earnest spirit, which our brother manifested.

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Third, that a copy of these resolutions be spread on our minutes and a copy be furnished the family.

Done by order of the association in session, this 3rd day of October, 1913.

E. S. JAMESON, Chairman Committee.

To the memory of Rev. R. S. Pace:

Inasmuch as the Heavenly Father has seen fit to remove from our midst our young brother, R. S. Pace,

And whereas, he was only with us a short time, but possessed such a great degree of earnestness and has shown such a great degree of piety, and whereas those of us, who labored with him, shall miss his help so much, and whereas another home, it seems, has been robbed of its supporter, aid and protector,

Therefore, be it resolved; first, that we extend to the family due love, sympathy and condolence in this sad hour.

Second, that we commend the church to the God he served.

Third, that we send a copy of these resolutions to his wife and children and spread a copy of it on the minutes of this association.

Done by order of the association in session this 3rd day of October, 1913.

E. S. JAMESON, Chairman Committee.



ARTICLES OF FAITH

Of God.—Article 1. There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in good time.

Of Free Will.—Article 2. We believe that the human will is free, and that all who have heard and have learned of the Father have the ability to accept or reject the conditions of salvation.

Of Baptism.—Article 3. Mode.—And Jesus, when he was baptised, went up straightway out of the water.—Mat. 3.

And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptised of John in Jordan.—Mark 1:9.

Buried with him in baptism, wherein ye are also risen with him through faith of the operation of God who hath raised him from the dead.—Col. 2:12.

We are buried with him in baptism, into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also walk in newness of life, For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.—Rom. 6:4-5.

Subjects.—Go ye therefore and teach all nations.—Matt. 28:19.

Then they that gladly received his word were baptised.—Acts 2:41

And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in the house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptised he and all his straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.—Acts 16:32-34

If thou believest with all thine heart thou mayest.—Acts 8:37-39.

Object.—The like figure whereunto baptism doth also now save us (not putting away the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.—1 Pet.—3:21.

The Lord's Supper.—Article 4. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup.—1 Cor. 11:28.

This do in remembrance of me.—Luke 22:19.

The Bible.—Article 5. All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.—2 Tim. 3:16.

CONSTITUTION

Constitution amended at regular sessions of the Association.

Article 1—This association shall be known as the Texas Free Will Baptist Association.

Article 2—It is not the object of this Association to usurp au-

thority over the churches; but to recommend such measures as would promote unity of action among the churches, to harmonize the efforts of the individual churches with one another in the effort to accomplish good and make each other more proficient in their good undertakings for good.

Article 3.—This association shall be composed of delegates from the churches, who shall be selected and sent from the churches composing it, and each church shall be entitled to two delegates, and for over fifty and more than seventy-five members, a church shall be entitled to one more delegate.

Article 4.—Ordained ministers may have seats in the association and be entitled to privileges of delegates, even when not representing churches. (As amended.)

Article 5.—New churches and ministers may be admitted to membership on application when duly accredited. (As amended.)

Article 6.—The standing officers of this Association shall be Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary.

Article 7.—This Association shall hold its sessions once every year, at a time and place specified by a preceeding session.

Article 8.—The Association shall have the right to dismiss disorderly churches and objectionable members at any of its sessions.

Article 9.—This constitution may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, at any regular meeting of the Association.

CHURCH DECORUM

1st. The church may choose a pastor annually, at the last regular conference in Associational year, or if they prefer, may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time, to continue from year to year so long as he may deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2nd. When it becomes necessary a pastor may be chosen at any time, but if the choice be made at a special conference, the time must be appointed at a monthly meeting of the church,

3rd. The pastor shall be moderator of the church, but when he is absent, or does not sit as moderator, being present, some suitable brother shall be appointed to sit in his place.

4th. There shall be two or more deacons in the church, whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and disbursement of all contributions made by the church for the pastor etc., and to distribute the bread and wine, in administration of the Lord's Supper.

5th. Some suitable member shall be appointed clerk, and it shall be his duty to do the recording and other writing pertaining to the business of the church, and to preserve a file of the min-

utes of the Association.

6th. When a new clerk is appointed, all the books, minutes, etc., belonging to the clerk, shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor.

7th. When the church deems it necessary, a committee of not less than three male members, well acquainted with business shall be appointed, whose business it shall be to give advice to brethren who apply to them, relative to cases of dealing, etc., with the church.

8th. The church shall hold a two-days meeting monthly embracing Saturday and the Lord's day following the first of which shall be the regular time of conference.

9th. It shall be the duty of every, male and female, to attend each conference meeting if they can, for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a special manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and rules by holy living.

10th. Conferences shall be conducted as follows: 1. Prayer, unless Divine Service has just been concluded, and generally then. 2. Invite visiting brethren to seats. 3. Open a door for the reception of members. 4. Call for absentees. 5. For Acknowledgements. 6. For reference of deferred business. 7. For miscellaneous business.

11th. Visiting brethren, as also helps called in from sister churches, shall be allowed to speak and make motions or seconds, but not allowed to vote.

12th. An orderly member of the Baptist church, which does not hold this church in fellowship, may be received into the church without a letter, when it is made apparent that his Christian character is unimpeachable and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some other church. All other persons must join by letter or baptism.

13th. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of members present; but unreasonable objections shall not be valid; and unless withdrawn, the member who makes them shall be liable to be taken under dealings by the church.

14th. When the moderator calls for absentees the clerk shall inform the church what male members have been absent for three successive conferences, and the moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.

15th. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing to attend his trial; provided his residence is known to the church.

16th. When a witness not a member of this church is introduced he shall not be examined until the question has been put to the church; "Will you hear the testimony of this witness?"

17th. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgements shall be minuted on the church books.

18th. Members dismissed from the church by letter, who become disorderly, or continue to hold their letters without a good reason; shall be cited to conference to answer for their conduct.

19th. Expelled members may be restored to fellowship on their petition, if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented of former evil conduct.

20th. A vote shall not be taken upon any question without a move and second, and in all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

21st. No motion shall be made while a move and second is before the conference.

22nd. It shall be considered disorderly for any member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member upon his request may be exempted by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

23rd. No member shall leave the house during conference without sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation or whispering without subject to being called to order by the moderator.

24th. All discussion in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling. Those who speak must arise to their feet and address the moderator and keep to the point in debate.

25th. No one shall speak more than three times on the same motion, without permission from the moderator, nor shall the remarks of one be unreasonably long.

26th. When the moderator speaks in debate he nominates some brother as moderator in his stead.

27th. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is necessary to call him to order.

28th. It shall be the rule of the church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper at least four times a year and the expenses are to be paid by the church.

29th. If the consciences of any are tender on the subject of feet washing in any church; they shall not be molested if they see fit to practice it.

30th. The decorum may be altered or amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any two successive monthly conferences.

GOVERNMENT AND ORDINANCES

1. We believe that a gospel church or a church of Christ, is a congregation of Christians, constituted and governed

according to the rules laid down in the New Testament.

2. That the rules require churches to preserve the form of government and the ordinances of the first Christian churches, and to be composed of baptized believers in Christ.

3. That the establishment of a central or Catholic government over the visible church, or any part thereof, is a device of earthly ambition repugnant to the word of God, subversive of the churches and dangerous to the liberties of men.

4. That gospel churches are the only ecclesiastical bodies or tribunals authorized by the scriptures; that each church has the unrestricted right to administer its own government, without suspension or interference, being under Christ, essentially independent and absolute, and that if this right be surrendered to superintending jurisdiction, by delegation or otherwise the assembly then ceases to be a gospel church.

5. That the authority of churches is designed for the perpetuation of true religion of the gospel, and for the preservation of a pure and orderly body of Christians on earth; that it is fully sufficient for the purposes intended, but that it does not extend to the persons, property or consciences of men in any case whatever.

6. That the only requisites to church membership are faith in Christ and obedience to the gospel; that faith in Christ necessarily exists in connection with the belief in the fundamental truths of Christianity and that to prescribe any other requisite of church members is an assumption of authority on the part of the church, and a departure from the plan of the gospel.

7. That the officers of a church are Elders and Deacons; that Elders are also called Bishops or Pastors; that all are equal in rank, though they may perform different functions, since some may be Bishops or Pastors of particular churches, while others may be simply elders, having no pastoral charge.

8. That the authority of the minister of the gospel extends to teaching, exhortation and rebuke, but no further; that he cannot perform any act which belongs to the authority of the church, such as reception of members into church compact, or the expulsion of offenders; that as a member of the church he is no more than any other member, and if he is guilty of transgression, he is to be brought before the brethren, and convicted or acquitted in the same manner as if he were a private person; yet we think it prudent and proper to call in advisory helps, especially if the minister is to be tried upon a charge of heresy.

9. That Elders and Deacons may be set apart to their office by ordination, the imposition of the hands of the Presbytery and prayer.

FORM OF CHURCH LETTER

The letter to the Association should contain the following:

An account of the state of religion.

The state of union in the church.

Condition of the Sabbath school, and the interest manifested in missions.

Any requests for the examination of a minister or for the next session of the Association.

Names of delegates.

The number of members received during the year and how received.

The number dismissed.

The number died.

The present number of members.

Amount given for missions.

This minute signed by authority of

D. J. DOLLAR, Moderator,

T. D. ROSS, Clerk.

J. P. CONLEY, Clerk Protem.

